

THE
HISTORY OF SUMATRA

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF
THE GOVERNMENT, LAWS, CUSTOMS, AND MANNERS

OF

THE NATIVE INHABITANTS,

WITH

A DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURAL PRODUCTIONS,

AND A RELATION OF THE

ANCIENT POLITICAL STATE OF THAT ISLAND.

BY

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resemble our common domestic cat, excepting that the tails of all are more or less imperfect, with a knob or hardness at the end, as if they had been cut or twisted off. In some the tail is not more than a few inches in length, whilst in others it is so nearly perfect, that the defect can be ascertained only by the touch. Rat, *tikūs*: of the grey kind. Mouse, *tikūs kechil*.

Elephant. Elephant, *gajah*: these huge animals abound in the woods, and from their gregarious habits usually traversing the country in large troops together, prove highly destructive to the plantations of the inhabitants, obliterating the traces of cultivation by merely walking through the grounds; but they are also fond of the produce of their gardens, particularly of plantain trees and the sugar-cane, which they devour with eagerness. This indulgence of appetite often proves fatal to them, for the owners knowing their attachment to these vegetables, have a practice of poisoning some part of the plantation, by splitting the canes and putting yellow arsenic into the clefts; which the animal unwarily eats of, and dies. Not being by nature carnivorous, the elephants are not fierce, and seldom attack a man but when fired at or otherwise provoked. Excepting a few kept for state by the king of Achin, they are not tamed in any part of the island.

Rhinoceros. The rhinoceros, *badak*, both that with a single horn and the double horned species, are natives of these woods. The latter has been particularly described by the late ingenious Mr. John Bell (one of the pupils of Mr. John Hunter) in a paper printed in Vol. LXXXIII. of the Phil. Trans. for 1793. The horn is esteemed an antidote against poison, and on that account formed into drinking cups. I do not know any thing to warrant the stories told of the mutual antipathy, and the desperate encounters of these two enormous beasts.

Hippopotamus. Hippopotamus, *kūda ayer*: the existence of this quadruped in the island of Sumatra having been questioned by M. Cuvier, and not having myself actually seen it, I think it necessary to state that the immediate authority upon which I included it in the list of animals found there, was a drawing made by Mr. Whalfeldt, an officer employed on a survey
of

of the coast, who had met with it at the mouth of one of the southern rivers, and transmitted the sketch along with his report to the government, of which I was then secretary. Of its general resemblance to that well-known animal there could be no doubt. M. Cuvier suspects that I may have mistaken for it the animal called by naturalists the *dugong*, and vulgarly the sea-cow, which will be hereafter mentioned; and it would indeed be a grievous error to mistake for a beast with four legs, a fish with two pectoral fins serving the purposes of feet; but, independently of the authority I have stated, the *kūda-ayer*, or river-horse, is familiarly known to the natives, as is also the *duyong* (from which Malayan word the *dugong* of naturalists has been corrupted); and I have only to add, that in a register given by the Philosophical Society of Batavia, in the first Vol. of their Transactions, for 1799, appears the article "*couda aijeer*, rivier paard; hippopotamus" amongst the animals of Java.

Bear, *brūang*: generally small and black: climbs the coconut trees in order to devour the tender part or cabbage. Of the deer kind there are several species: *rusa*, the stag, of which some are very large; *kijang*, the roe, with unbranched horns, the emblem of swiftness and wildness with the Malayan poets; *palāndok*, *napu*, and *kanchil*, three varieties, of which the last is the smallest, of that most delicate animal, termed by Buffon the chevrotin, but which belong to the moschus. Of a *kanchil* measured at Batavia, the extreme length was sixteen inches, and the height ten behind, and eight at the shoulder. *Babi-rusa*, or hog-deer: an animal of the hog kind, with peculiar tusks resembling horns. Of this there is a representation in Valentyn, Vol. III. p. 268. fig. c. and also in the very early travels of Cosmas, published in Thevenot's Collect. Vol. I. p. 2. of the Greek Text. The varieties of the monkey tribe are innumerable: among them the best known are the *muniel*, *karra*, *bru*, *siāmang* (or simia gibbon of Buffon), and *lutong*. With respect to the appellation of *orang utan*, or wild man, it is by no means specific, but applied to any of these animals of a large size that occasionally walks erect, and bears the most resemblance to the human figure. Sloth, *ku-kang*, *ka-malas-an* (lemur tardigradus). Squirrel, *tupei*; usually small and dark-coloured. *Teleggo*, stinkard.

Bear, &c.

Tiger,

Tiger.

Tiger, *arīmau*, *machang*: this beast is here of a very large size, and proves a destructive foe to man as well as to most other animals. The heads being frequently brought in to receive the reward given by the East India Company for killing them, I had an opportunity of measuring one, which was eighteen inches across the forehead. Many circumstances respecting their ravages, and the modes of destroying them, will occur in the course of the work. Tiger-cat, *kuching-rimau* (said to feed on vegetables as well as flesh). Civet-cat, *tanggalong* (*viverra civetta*): the natives take the civet, as they require it for use, from a peculiar receptacle under the tail of the animal. It appears from the *Ayin Akbari* (Vol. I. p. 103.) that the civet used at *Dehli* was imported from *Achin*. Pole-cat, *musang* (*viverra fossa*, or a new species). Porcupine (*hystrix longicauda*) *landak*, and, for distinction, *babi landak*. Hedge-hog (*erinaceus*) *landak*. *Peñg-goling*, signifying the animal which rolls itself up; or pangolin of Buffon: this is distinguished into the *peñg-goling rambut*, or hairy sort (*myrmophoga*), and the *peñg-goling sisik*, or scaly sort, called more properly *tañggiling* (species of *manis*); the scales of this are esteemed by the natives for their medicinal properties. See *Asiat. Researches*, Vol. I. p. 376. and Vol. II. p. 353.

Peng-goling.

Bats.

Of the bat kind there is an extraordinary variety: the *churi-churi* is the smallest species, called vulgarly *burong tikus*, or the mouse-bird; next to these is the *kalalawar*; then the *kalambit*; and the *kaluwang* (*noctilio*) is of considerable size; of these I have observed very large flights occasionally passing at a great height in the air, as if migrating from one country to another, and Captain Forrest notices their crossing the straits of Sunda from *Java* head to Mount *Pugong*; they are also seen hanging by hundreds upon trees. The flying foxes and flying squirrels (*lemur volans*), which by means of a membrane extending from what may be termed the fore-legs to those behind, are enabled to take short flights, are also not uncommon.

Aligators and other lizards.

Aligators, *buāya*, (*crocodilus biporcatus* of Cuvier) abound in most of the rivers, grow to a large size, and do much mischief. The guana, or iguana, *biāwak* (*lacerta iguana*) is another animal of the lizard kind, about three or four feet in length, harmless, excepting to the poultry and